

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of oral and esophageal squamous cell cancers	Mice lacking catenin (cadherin-associated protein) $\delta 1$ (Ctnnd1; p120) could help identify new treatments for oral and esophageal squamous cell cancers. In mice, deficiency of functional p120 in the oral cavity and esophagus led to invasive squamous cell cancers compared with no p120 deficiency ($p < 0.0001$). Tissue samples from the oral cavity and esophagus of the deficient mice showed greater cell proliferation and inflammation than matched tissues from noncancerous control mice. Next steps include using the model to evaluate the effect of cancer therapeutics and to identify potential disease biomarkers.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Stairs, D.B. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i> ; published online April 12, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2011.02.007 Contact: Anil K. Rustgi, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: anil2@mail.med.upenn.edu
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